

Promising Practice Capture Sheet

School: South Central TN Workforce Alliance & Workforce Board ☒ Rural ☐ Suburban ☐ Urban

District: ☒ Region: South Central

Practice: Career Camps

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Title

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Connection to Strategic Plan:

Goals:	Top Half of States on NAEP – 4th and 8th Grade Math and ELA	State Average of 21 Composite ACT	55% of the class of 2020 obtains postsecondary credential
How best practice addresses:	Code camp includes 12-18 year old students. The various camps focus on integrating math through formulas, and artistic design elements. Also, the programming component is essentially creating sentences using math.	Camps support applicable learning for math, science, and reading components which support students in preparation for the ACT	Columbia State Community College and TCATs in the South Central region support the camps, students work with the faculty from the postsecondary institutions, and they learn what is required to enter the specific field. Promote students to consider their career plans, and learn the steps needed to reach those goals, as well as promote students participation in dual enrollment. By connecting students to career paths, they begin to understand the requirements necessary to complete a postsecondary program.

Priority Areas:	Early Foundations	Empower Districts	Support Educators	High School Bridge to Postsecondary	All Means All
How best practice applies:			Currently, teachers help support with the instruction of students at the camps, but our future plans are to invite teachers to also be learners so that they can take the learning back to their classroom.	Collaboration with postsecondary institutions to provide the training, and to demonstrate to students what the “bridge” looks like- including steps to take in middle/high school, to prepare for their future postsecondary education and ultimate career goals.	Any student who is interested in attending the camps are eligible to attend. We encourage all students who are interested in the field of study to attend. Greater focus will be spent on marketing to female students in the future.

Practices:

- ☐ Culture ☒ Instructional ☒ Training/PD
☐ Accountability ☒ Programmatic ☐ Policy Change
☐ Funding ☐ Other:

Project Specific Indicators:

- ☒ Increased student readiness results (non-academic)
☒ Increased partnerships / alignment
☒ Increased participation / program growth

Results:

- ☐ Increased student achievement results
☐ ACT ☐ TNReady/EOC/TVAAS ☐ NIC ☐ EPS
☐ Decreased remediation and/or subgroup gaps

The Challenge:

Students only know what they know! And the variety of in-demand careers are often unknown without active, career exploration that allows students a sample of the skills and talents needed to succeed in these growing careers.

The Vision:

Provide a safe and realistic simulated work environment where students can learn how academic skills, such as those learned in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math are actually applied in the day to day work of selected careers. Employer partnerships allow onsite visits and/or “Lunch with the Pros” discussions.

Summary of To-Do's:

- Funding for recruiter, teachers, lunches, snacks.
- Recruit energetic employer partners through workforce board connections, local chambers of commerce, CTE Advisory Committees.
- Identify energetic & flexible camp instructors.
- Determine sites for each camp.
- Develop marketing materials.
- Recruit, recruit, recruit using all avenues – social media, news media, word of mouth
- Have a solid method to accept applicants and collect permission slips and waivers (we use online registration & payment).

Lessons Learned: *Include advice on start-up and sustainability*

- Received funding in our second year from LaunchTN & GM Foundation that allowed for expansion of camp offerings because of quality of first year offerings.
- Charge SOMETHING! Attendance increases when parents are investing. We charged \$50 per camper last year.
- Do everything online! Promotion, registration, payment, communication with parents, etc.
- Flexibility of instructor because every group is different.
- Increase target marketing efforts to female students.
- *Importance of hiring a coordinator!*
- Involve the community.

Communications:

- Schools, teachers, [arents
- Chambers, workforce boards, employer groups, civic clubs
- TV/newspaper/magazine/radio
- Local elected officials

Stakeholder Management:

We used the funding received from the GM Foundation to hire a seasonal contractor (Former CTE Supervisor!) to coordinate our efforts – Best thing we did to grow the camp! She managed everything, starting in March before the camps in June and July.

Metrics & Measurements:

Baseline Data	Progress to Date	Goals
# of students participating	173	230
# of employers participating	10	15
# of industry sectors represented	2 – Manufacturing & IT	4 – Manufacturing, IT, Healthcare, Public Safety
Student satisfaction	Overall great reviews	Keep satisfaction high

Resources:

- Coding – Tennessee Code Academy www.tncodeacademy.com
- Robotics – Columbia State Community College
- Advanced Manufacturing - In House Young Engineers Group at GM Spring Hill Manufacturing & GCP Applied Technologies
- Staff at South Central TN Workforce Alliance - the Workforce Board for Giles, Hickman, Lawrence, Lewis, Marshall, Maury, Perry and Wayne counties

Note: In addition to websites, materials, and tools, Include other LEAs or schools who are also strong in this practice, if known.